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THE
FORM OF PRAYER

AND

Ceremonies

USED AT THE

CONSECRATION OF CHURCHES

AND

BURIAL-GROUNDS.

First N. S. Edition.

HALIFAX.

WILLIAM GOSSIP, 24, GRANVILLE STREET.

M.DCCC.LI.

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THE FORM
OF
CONSECRATING A CHURCH
OR
CHAPEL.

¶ *The Bishop, with his Chaplains, is received at the door of the Church or Chapel by the Commissary, Registrar, Minister, Churchwardens, and others, and by them conducted to the Vestry-room. Having proceeded in his robes to the Communion-table (upon which the vessels for the Holy Communion are to be placed), the Minister presents to him the Petition praying him to consecrate the Church, and the Deed of Endowment (if any), which the Bishop delivers to the Registrar, to be by him read aloud; and then the Bishop, with his Chaplains and the Clergy, walk from the East to the West end of the Church or Chapel, and back again, repeating alternately the 24th Psalm; the Bishop beginning;*

Psalm xxiv.

THE earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is; the compass of the world, and they that dwell therein.

2. *For he hath founded it upon the seas, and prepared it upon the floods.*

3. *Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord, or who shall rise up in his holy place?*

4. *Even he that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; and that hath not lift up his mind unto vanity, nor sworn to deceive his neighbour.*

5. *He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.*

6. *This is the generation of them that seek him, even of them that seek thy face, O Jacob.*

7. *Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors: and the King of Glory shall come in.*

8. *Who is the King of Glory? It is the Lord, strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle.*

9. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors: and the King of Glory shall come in.

10. *Who is the King of Glory? Even the Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

When they come to the Lord's Table, the Bishop, taking his seat in a chair on the North side thereof, the Deed of Conveyance is presented to him by the Minister; the Bishop lays it on the table, and standing on the north side, turns to the Congregation and says:

DEARLY beloved in the Lord; forasmuch as devout and holy men, as well under the Law as under the Gospel, moved either by the secret inspiration of the Holy Spirit, or by the express command of God, or by their own reason and sense of order and decency, have erected houses for the public worship of God, and separated them from all profane and common uses; which godly practice hath a manifest tendency to advance the honour of God's holy name, and to enliven the devotion of those who are engaged in his service: let us humbly hope, that our Heavenly Father will favourably approve our present purpose, of setting apart this place in solemn manner, for the performance of the several offices of religious worship; and let us faithfully and devoutly pray for his blessing on this our undertaking.

¶ *Then, all kneeling down, the Bishop says the following Prayer.*

O ETERNAL God, mighty in power, of majesty incomprehensible, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of temples made with hands, who yet hast been graciously pleased to promise thine especial presence in whatever place even two or three of thy faithful servants shall assem-

ble in thy name to offer up their supplications and their praises to thee ; vouchsafe, O Lord, to be present with us who are here gathered together, to consecrate this place, with all humility and readiness of heart, to the honour of thy great name : separating it henceforth from all unhallowed, ordinary, and common uses, and dedicating it entirely to thy service, for reading therein thy most holy word, for celebrating thy holy sacraments, for offering to thy glorious Majesty the sacrifices of prayer and thanksgiving, for blessing thy people in thy name, and for performing all other holy ordinances which may be lawfully solemnised therein. Accept, O Lord, this service at our hands, and bless it with such success, as may tend most to thy glory, and the salvation of thy people, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

¶ *Then the Bishop, standing up, turns toward the Congregation (who continue kneeling,) and says the following Prayer :*

REGARD, O Lord, the supplications of thy servants; and grant that whosoever shall be dedicated to thee in this house by Baptism, may be sanctified by the Holy Ghost, delivered from thy wrath and eternal death, and being made a living member of Christ's Church, may ever remain in the number of thy faithful and elect children. *Amen.*

GRANT, O Lord, that they who in this place shall in their own persons renew the promises and vows made for them by their sureties at their baptism, and thereupon be confirmed by the bishop, may continue thine for ever; and being preserved in the unity of thy Church, may daily increase in thy Holy Spirit more and more, until they come to thine everlasting kingdom. *Amen.*

GRANT, O Lord, that whosoever shall receive in this place the blessed sacrament of the body and blood of Christ, may come to that holy ordinance with a true

penitent heart, lively faith, and perfect charity ; and being filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, may, to their great and endless comfort, obtain remission of their sins, and all other benefits of his passion. *Amen.*

GRANT, O Lord, that whosoever shall be joined together in this place in the holy estate of matrimony, may faithfully perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made, and remain in perfect love and peace together unto their lives' end. *Amen.*

GRANT, O Lord, that by thy holy word which shall be read and preached in this place, the hearers thereof may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same. *Amen.*

GRANT, O Lord, that whosoever shall confess their sins, and offer up their prayers and praises unto thy divine Majesty in this place, may draw near unto thee with such stedfastness of faith, and with such seriousness, sincerity, and devout affection of mind, that they may be graciously accepted in thy sight: O Lord, pardon their sins, compassionate their infirmities, enlighten and sanctify them by thy Holy Spirit, so to serve and worship thee here below, that finally they may be received into thy presence, to praise and glorify thee for evermore. Grant this, O Lord, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

NOW unto the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, the only wise God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be honour and glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

¶ *After which, the Bishop being seated, the Commissary reads aloud the Sentence of Consecration, which the Bishop then signs, and commands it, together with the Petition and Deeds, to be recorded and registered in his Registry.*

¶ *Then the Service of the day shall be read by the officiating Minister.*

PROPER PSALMS, lxxxiv. cxxii. cxxxii.

FIRST LESSON, 1 Kings, viii. 22 to 62 inclusive.

SECOND LESSON, Heb. x. 19 to 25 inclusive.

¶ *After the Collect for the day, the Minister stops till the Bishop has said the following Prayer:*

O MOST blessed Saviour, who, by thy gracious presence at the Feast of Dedication, didst approve and honour such religious services as this which we are now performing unto thee, be present with us at this time by thy Holy Sprit; and because holiness becometh thine house for ever, sanctify us, we pray thee, that we may be living temples, holy and acceptable unto thee; and so dwell in our hearts by faith, and possess our souls by thy grace, that nothing which defileth may enter into us; but that, being cleansed from all carnal and corrupt affections, we may ever be devoutly given to serve thee in all good works, who art our Saviour, Lord, and God, blessed evermore. *Amen.*

¶ *Then the officiating Minister proceeds with the Morning Service, after which the 1st, 4th, 5th, and 7th verses of the 84th Psalm are sung:*

1.

O God of Hosts, the mighty Lord,
How lovely is the place
Where thou, enthron'd in glory, shew'st
The brightness of thy face!

4.

O Lord of Hosts, my King and God,
How highly blest are they
Who in thy temple always dwell,
And there thy praise display!

5

Thrice happy they, whose choice has thee
Their sure protection made;
Who long to tread the sacred ways
That to thy dwelling lead.

7.

They shall proceed from strength to strength,
And still approach more near,
Till all on Sion's holy mount
Before their God appear.

Or else,

Lord of the worlds above,
How pleasant and how fair,
The dwellings of thy love,
Thy earthly temples are!
To thine abode
Our hearts aspire,
With warm desire,
To meet our God.

O happy souls that pray,
Where God appoints to hear!
O happy men that pay
Their constant service there:
They praise thee still—
Thrice happy they,
Who love the way
To Zion's Hill.

They go from strength to strength,
Through this dark vale of tears,
Till each arrives at length,
Till each in Heav'n appears;
To that blest seat,
O God our King,
Direct and bring
Our willing feet.

To God the Father, Son,
And Spirit ever blest,
Eternal three in one
All worship be addrest,
As heretofore
It was, is now
And shall be so
For evermore.

Communion Service.

¶ *The Bishop reads the Communion Service: and after the Collect for the Queen, says the following Prayer:*

O MOST glorious Lord God, we acknowledge that we are not worthy to offer unto thee any thing belonging to us; yet we beseech thee, of thy great goodness, graciously to accept the dedication of this place to thy worship and service, and to prosper this our undertaking: Receive the prayers and intercessions of us, and all other thy servants, who either now or hereafter, entering into this thine house, shall call upon thee: and

by thy grace prepare our hearts to serve thee with reverence and godly fear: Affect us with an awful apprehension of thy divine Majesty, and with a deep sense of our own unworthiness; that so, approaching thy sanctuary with lowliness and devotion, with purity and sincerity of heart, we may be acceptable in thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Epistle. Eph. ii. 13.

NOW in Christ Jesus, ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us, having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances, for to make in himself of twain one new Man, so making peace, and that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby, and came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now, therefore, ye are no more strangers and foreigners; but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone, in whom all the building fitly framed together, growing unto an holy temple in the Lord; in whom ye also are builded together, for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

The Gospel. John, ii. 13-18.

AND the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and found in the temple those that sold oxen, and sheep, and doves, and the changers of money sitting. And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; and said unto them

that sold doves, Take these things hence ; make not
my Father's house a house of merchandise. And his
disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of
thine house hath eaten me up.

¶ *Then the Bishop reads the Nicene Creed, after which the
100th Psalm is sung.*

ALL people that on earth do dwell ;
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice ;
Him serve with fear, His praise forthtell,
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed,
Without our aid, he did us make ;
We are his flock, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto,
Praise, laud, and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why ? The Lord our God is good,
His mercy is for ever sure :
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

Or else,

Lo ! God is here ! let us adore,
And own how holy is this place ;
Let all within us feel His power,
And humbly bow before His face !
Who know His pow'r, His grace who prove,
Serve Him with awe, with rev'rence love.

Lo ! God is here ! Him day and night,
Th' united choirs of angels sing ;
To Him, enthron'd above all height,
Heav'n's host their noblest praises bring
Disdain not, Lord ! our meaner song,
Who praise thee with a feeble tongue.

Eternal Being ! May our praise
Thy courts with grateful incense fill ;
Still may we stand before thy face,
Still hear and do thy sov'reign will ;
To thee may all our praises rise,
An ever grateful sacrifice.

The Sermon.

¶ *Then follow the Offertory and the Prayer for the Church Militant; after which the Bishop says the following Prayers:*

BLESSED be thy name, O Lord God, for that it pleaseth thee to have thy habitation among the sons of men upon earth, and to dwell in the midst of the assembly of the saints upon earth; bless, we beseech thee, the religious solemnity of this day; and grant that in this place, now set apart to thy service, thy holy name may be worshipped in truth and purity to all generations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, the Prince of Peace; we beseech thee to take away from us all pride and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that as there is but one body and one spirit, and one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may henceforth be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

BLESSED be thy name, O Lord God, that it hath pleased thee to dispose the hearts of thy servants to erect this house for thy worship and service. Bless them, O Lord, for their regard to thy honour, and to the good of souls; remember them concerning this, and wipe not out the kindness they have shewed to thy Church, and to the offices thereof; and grant that they, for whose good this pious work is intended, may shew forth their thankfulness by making a right use thereof, to the glory of thy blessed name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE LORD bless us and keep us. The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon us, and give us peace now and for evermore. *Amen.*

¶ *Then those who do not intend to communicate, withdraw, and the Communion Service proceeds after the accustomed manner.*

CONSECRATING A BURIAL-GROUND.

¶ *When the Consecration of the Church does not take place on the same day, the Service for the day is read in the Church, with Psalms and lessons proper for the occasion, to wit, Ps. xxxix. and xc.; Gen. xxiii. and St. John, v, 21, 30. After service, the Bishop sitting on the North side of the Communion table, the Minister presents to him a Petition, praying him to consecrate the Burial ground; after which, the Bishop proceeds with his Commissary and Registrar, and with the Clergy and People, to a Tent provided for the purpose on the ground to be consecrated; and says the following Prayer:*

THE glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper thou the work of our hands upon us; O prosper thou our handy work.

PREVENT us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favour, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works, begun, continued and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally by thy mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Or else,

They walk round the ground repeating alternately, Psalm xlix.

¶ *Then the Bishop directs the Sentence of Consecration to be read, which he signs, and directs to be registered in his Registry. Then the Bishop says the following Prayer:*

O GOD, who hast taught us in thy holy word, that there is a difference between the spirit of a beast that goeth downward to the earth, and the spirit of a man which ascendeth up to God who gave it; and likewise by the example of thy holy servants, in all ages, hast taught us to set apart peculiar places, where the bodies of the faithful may rest in peace, and be preserved from all indignities, whilst their souls are safely kept in the hands of their Redeemer; accept, we beseech thee,

this charitable work of ours, in separating this portion of ground, and dedicating it to that good purpose ; and give us grace, that by the frequent instances of mortality which we behold, we may learn and seriously consider, how frail and uncertain our condition here on earth is ; and so number our days as to apply our hearts unto wisdom ; that in the midst of life thinking upon death, and daily preparing ourselves for the judgment that is to follow, we may have our part in the resurrection to eternal life, with Him who died for our sins, and rose again for our justification, and now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

¶ *The following verses of the thirty-ninth Psalm are then sung :*

5.

OUR life, thou know'st, is but a span,
A cipher sums our years ;
And every man, in best estate,
But vanity appears.

6.

Man like a shadow vainly walks.
With fruitless cares oppress'd ;
He heaps up wealth, but cannot tell
By whom 'twill be possess'd.

7.

Why then should we on things of earth
With anxious care attend ?
On thee alone our steadfast hope
Shall ever, Lord, depend.

¶ *After which, the Bishop dismisses the congregation with his blessing.*

¶ *When the Consecration of the Burial-ground takes place on the same day with the Consecration of the Church, the Bishop proceeds immediately after the Service in the Church to the ground to be consecrated, and observes the same forms.*

